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Imagery analysis report

Unidentified Construction at the Kalahari
Desert Suspect Underground Test Site,
South Africa (S)

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UNIDENTIFIED CONSTRUCTION AT THE KALAHARI DESERT SUSPECT UNDERGROUND TEST SITE, SOUTH AFRICA (S)

1. (TSR) A large octagonal concrete pad, 20 meters in diameter, has been constructed 5 kilometers east-northeast of the test tower site at the Kalahari Desert Suspect Underground Test Site [] Figure 1) in South Africa. Construction of this pad was begun between []

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2. (S/D) The pad is next to an old borrow pit. On [] several large pieces of earth-moving equipment and numerous trucks were at the site. Two separate areas were being graded. One was a large oval area which had been sprayed with oil to stabilize the sand while the area was being graded. A probable oil spreader was next to the graded area and a hose connected it to a tank which was beside the road leading into the site. The second graded area was rectangular and adjacent to the oval area. Several support and administration tents, water tanks, and other support equipment were also present at the site.

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3. (TSR) By [] a circular, dark-toned pad had been built in the rectangular graded area, and a batch plant and piles of dark-toned aggregate were in the oval area (Figure 2). The circular pad was [] meters in diameter and appeared to be made of an asphalt-type material. Surrounding the asphalt pad was a double-octagonal form. The inner and outer diameters of the form were [] respectively. The octagon was made of long linear members joined together with shorter cross members. Evidently, the asphalt was put down as a base for the concrete pad with the octagon serving as the form.

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4. (TSR) By [] the octagonal concrete pad had been poured (Figure 3). The diameter of the pad was approximately 20 meters and its thickness was probably [] It is not known if the asphalt was extended over the entire area of concrete pad. Also, at that time, the site had been completely vacated except for a single bulldozer which was leveling the ground around the pad. On the most recent imagery of [] there was still no identifiable activity at the pad.

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5. (S/D) No other unusual activity has been observed at the rest of the test site. The old test tower site is vacant and is becoming overgrown with small brush.

REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

ACIC. Operational Navigation Chart, Sheet Q-4, scale 1:1,000,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

South African Government. South Africa 1:50,000; Sheets 2721AD, 2721BC, 2721CB, and 2721DA; scale 1:50,000 (UNCLASSIFIED)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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